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PSC 341.01: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

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The University of Montana
Department of Political Science

PSc 341 Political Parties,
Campaigns, and Elections
Autumn 1994

M. Laslovich
Office: LA 350
Hrs: MW 1-2:00,
TR 10-11:00 and
by app't (5202)

Course Description

A critical analysis of the role of political parties in American politics, and in the formation of public policy. The nomination process, campaigns, and elections will be addressed. Particular attention will be devoted to the 1994 midterm Congressional elections.

Texts

Students are required to read the following texts which are available at the University Bookstore:

Kazee, Thomas A., ed. Who Runs For Congress? Ambition, Context, and Candidate Emergence. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1994;

Keefe, William J. Parties, Politics, and Public Policy in America, 7th edition. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1994;

Magleby, David B. and Candice J. Nelson. The Money Chase: Congressional Campaign Finance Reform. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1990; and

Teixeira, Ruy A. The Disappearing American Voter. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1992.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam I (Sept. 22) Topics I-II	20%
Exam II (Oct. 27) Topics III-IV	20%
Essay (due Nov. 15 IN CLASS)	30%
Final Exam (Dec. 20, 10:10-12:10) Topics V-VII	30%

Drop/Add and Grading Change Deadlines

Sept. 15 - Last day to add courses.
Sept. 29 - Last day to drop courses or change grading option.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are excused from a scheduled exam may write a makeup examination. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.

Research Essays

Students are invited to choose a research topic. However, topics must be approved by the instructor to ensure its proper scope and focus, as well as provide an opportunity to offer suggestions. Paper topics should be approved by Oct. 4.

Please note that this is to be a research paper. The amount of research undertaken, and the ability to marshal that information effectively, will be crucial in the evaluation of the paper.

The paper should range between 10 to 15 double-spaced typed pages. Papers are DUE Nov. 15 IN CLASS. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day, including weekends.

Lecture Topics and Readings

- I Introduction - Parties and the Political System
Keefe, chapter 1.
- II American Party System
Keefe, chapter 2.
- III Parties and Nominations
Keefe, chapter 3; and
Kazee.
- IV Campaigns and Elections
Keefe, chapter 4; and
Magleby and Nelson.
- V Parties and Voting Behavior
Keefe, chapter 5; and
Teixeira.
- VI Parties, Congress, and Public Policy
Keefe, chapter 6.
- VII Critique of Political Parties
Keefe, chapter 7.